

determining that a second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;

informing, in the second call, that the second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;

storing a second data structure which identifies the second party and the second telecommunication feature unavailable to the second party;

receiving a third call from a third party;

determining that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the third party;

informing, in the third call, that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the third party;

storing a third data structure which identifies the third party and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the third party;

after storing the first data structure, the second data structure, and the third data structure, inputting availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party but not the third party;

processing the first data structure, the second data structure, the third data structure, and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party but remains unavailable to the third party; and

notifying the first party in a fourth call that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

10. (Twice Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a database comprising a first data structure which identifies a first party of a telecommunication network and a first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party; and

a computer to receive availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party, the computer to process the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

17. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer to store a first data structure which identifies a first party of a telecommunication network and a first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party, to receive availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party, and to process the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

24. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable, notifying the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the computer, in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable, outputs a signal to initiate notifying the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the contents, in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable, further cause the computer to

output a signal to initiate notifying the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

REMARKS

Changes to the specification are shown in the attached Appendix A ("VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE") with additions underlined and deletions in brackets.

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 have been amended to return them to their form as filed originally. Removed features have been incorporated into new dependent claims 24-26, respectively.

Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 14-17, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,324,273 ("Alcott"). Claims 2-3, 9, 11-12, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alcott. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Alcott discloses a method, system, and articles for ordering a telecommunication service. The ordering system allows a party to enter a service code of a name of a telecommunication service in which the party is interested. Parties may directly order, provision, and establish subscription telecommunication service products using touchtone keys. If a party is "unqualified" for a telecommunication service because the service is unavailable, a written correspondence is sent, indicating that the service is not being provided due to unavailability (Alcott, Col. 4, lines 45-50, Fig. 1, steps 52 and 74). Alcott discloses generation of an accounting record when a party is "qualified" for a service—that is, when the service is available (Alcott, Col. 4, lines 26-30, Fig. 1, step 66). When a party is "unqualified"—that is, when the service is unavailable—a written denial correspondence is sent (Alcott, Fig. 1, step 74). The system of Alcott does not disclose or suggest any further action after the denial correspondence for parties for whom a service is unavailable, such as the generation of a record (Alcott, Fig. 1, step 74, Col. 4, lines 37-50).